

MARSHALLESE TO BOYCOTT DOE MEDICAL SURVEY

Ebeye, Marshall Is.: Rongelap and Uti-rik people on this island say they will refuse the semi-annual Dept. of Energy medical survey scheduled for September 15. Rongelap leaders said they will encourage the Uti-rik and Rongelap people living on Majuro and their home islands to follow suit.

The current protest stems from a long history of Marshallese distrust for the DOE (formerly Atomic Energy Commission) doctors from Brookhaven National Laboratory who visit the Marshalls to treat the victims of the Bikini hydrogen bomb test in 1954.

The Rongelap people are particularly incensed over recent revelations that have shown their atoll to be highly radioactive. In 1957, after a three year exile following their exposure to high level radioactive fallout, the AEC told them their atoll was safe for rehabilitation and the people returned.

But an aerial radiological survey conducted by the DOE in late 1978 and released in March, 1979, shows all of Rongelap's islands with radiation levels equal to, and in some cases, higher than Eneu Island at Bikini, now declared uninhabitable for at least 20 years.

In February, 1979, DOE scientists reportedly went to Rongelap and informed the islanders that they were not to use the atoll's northern islands because they are highly contaminated. These islands, people report, have been used extensively for producing copra, for fishing trips and gardens.

The Rongelap and Uti-rik people are pressing the U.S. government with their demand for independent medical treatment. For the first time since the Marshallese protests began against the AEC/DOE in the early 1970's both populations are acting together.

Because of earlier differences between the Marshallese from different atolls, the DOE was able to refuse their demands for independent medical treatment.

The Marshallese are seeking outside support for their hope of bringing independent doctors to the Marshalls. For more information write to MSC.

GREETINGS FROM M.S.C.

This brief Update Bulletin is intended to be just that: brief, but to let you know that we are still alive and kicking! A number of the hard working MSC volunteers deserted our hot, busy office in favor of the beaches and ocean in the Marshalls, Saipan, Palau, Nukuoro, and elsewhere. It was a very productive summer with many educational and political activities happening in the different districts. Several hardworking people braved the humid Hawaiian summer to keep up with the daily MSC work while the others were wandering around the Pacific.

We are back and putting together new long range plans for MSC, with, we hope, solid funding and increasing the number of people working with us. We plan to get back to our regular Bulletin with in-depth analysis and news updates on Micronesia.

As a supplement to the MSC Bulletin, we encourage you to subscribe to an excellent new Pacific-focused publication, Nuclear Countdown: A Journal of Pacific Resistance. The second issue focused on the nuclearization of the Pacific, in particular Australia and New Zealand, and carries a report on last years conference in Ponape, entitled: "Pacific Peoples meet for an Independent Nuclear Free Pacific." Using a variety of photos and cartoons, it is the best new magazine to surface and provides coverage of military and nuclear developments in the Pacific unavailable elsewhere. Their address is: c/o AICD, Box A243, Sydney South, NSW, 2000, Australia.

Roger Gale's long awaited book is here! In The Americanization of Micronesia: the Consolidation of U.S. Rule in the Pacific, Gale, the former director of Friends of Micronesia, takes a detailed look at U.S. plans to annex Micronesia. He focuses on the strategic importance of Micronesia and the Pacific and the Micronesia-U.S. future political status negotiations. Available from: University Press of America, 4710 Auth Place, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20023

PALAU CONSTITUTION: PEOPLE VOTE YES; LEGISLATURE, U.S. SAY NO

The attempt by Palau to establish the first Pacific nuclear-free zone and become a sovereign nation has come under sharp U.S. government attack. A Constitution banning the storage, use, testing and transportation of nuclear weapons or waste was signed in April by Con-Con delegates.

In the scheduled July referendum, 92% of the voters approved the Constitution. The large vote in favor was attributed to U.S. interference with Palau's Constitutional processes and U.S. plans for Pacific nuclear waste dumping.

The U.S. strongly opposed the Constitution stating it could "effectively prevent U.S. warships from transiting Palau..."

But the U.S. exerted its influence in the Palau Legislature, which attempted to cancel the July referendum and then voted to void the Constitution because, they said, it is not "compatible" with the Free Association status now being negotiated for Micronesia.

Palauan leaders supporting the Constitution accused the U.S. of "interfering with internal constitutional processes." A spokesman for the Citizens' Committee for the Palau

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NO END TO STATUS TALKS IN SIGHT

American Ambassador Peter Rosenblatt has been stepping into hot water at every turn in Micronesia. Most recently, he was responsible, many Palauan leaders charge, for the Palau Constitutional mess (see related article) and after visiting Truk and talking with a separation movement there has been criticized for lending a measure of support to the separationists.

Whatever Rosenblatt's plans are for Micronesia, it is unlikely that the U.S. will be able to meet its self-imposed deadline of 1981 for dissolving the United Nations trust.

California Rep. Philip Burton said recently there is no way a change in Micronesia's political status would be approved by the Congress this year. With 1980 an election year, SALT II, a national health plan and other items for the Congress to consider, Micronesia is doubtful to be a priority this year. Micronesia's future status could be further delayed by a possible change in administration after 1980.

Add that to the fact that no final pact has been agreed on, despite the optimism following the signing of the Hilo Principles to guide the negotiations in early 1978, and the negotiations still have several hurdles to go.

Rosenblatt's negotiating team is still trying to find a quick resolution to the talks that have spanned a decade. To tempt the Palauans to come to terms, the U.S. upped the financial assistance it is prepared to give Palau post-trusteeship to \$250 million for the 15 year period of the free association compact.

But since the Constitution vote, when 92% voted for the Constitution, while the Palau Political Status Commission opposed the document, it is unlikely that the PPSC can deliver popular support on any status agreement signed between it and the U.S., sources in Palau report.

Meanwhile, in the Marshalls, the U.S. has again increased the financial aid it will give following the trusteeship - and has given in to a key Marshallese demand: that all U.S. military activity in the Marshalls be subject to U.S. judicial review.

The Marshallese are concerned about future missile testing at Kwajalein, where recent missiles have been shot into the lagoon using "depleted uranium" as a ballast. Marshallese government sources charge that no environmental studies have been conducted and uranium levels in the lagoon are a potential health threat.

The press reports a much "warmer" reception for Rosenblatt among the central districts, indicating possibly that they could be near an agreement.

Still, the U.S. needs signatures on a future agreement from all the Micronesian entities before it can dissolve the trust. With the Mariana Islands entering the tussle and challenging the U.S. over its right to veto a 200 mile ocean economic zone there, it anything but certain when the negotiations will conclude and what kind of package Rosenblatt will present to the U.N. and the Congress.

MARSHALLESE OCCUPY MISSILE RANGE: LEGISLATOR CLUBBED BY SECURITY

KWAJALEIN ATOLL - Nitijela member Imada Kabua was clubbed with a nightstick by the Roi Namur Manager as he led landowners and their families on to Roi Namur to begin an indefinite occupation of the key missile testing island at Kwajalein, Friday (July 20).

Landowners are demanding compensation for past and future use of the tiny 400-acre island that is dotted with radar and other missile tracking equipment. Island residents say they have never received compensation and unlike Kwajalein - where a familiar occupation is in progress - there is no lease arrangement for Roi Namur.

Kabua, Rep. Jolle Lojkar and a group of about 30 men, women and children were met at the Roi Namur beach by two Chief of Police and a patrolman, security guards and the Manager, and several men not in uniform carrying nightsticks including the assistant Manager. Kabua responded to the attack by throwing a handful of sand into the Manager's face, it was reported. Tempers flared and Marshallese picked up rocks from the beach for defense but the security guards withdrew and the altercation ended quickly.

Kabua, who sustained a 5-inch bruise on his ribs under his left arm, said he intended to file assault and battery charges against the Roi Namur resident Manager. "Maybe he thought he could scare us off the island by doing that," Kabua commented the following day, adding that the landowners "are here to stay."

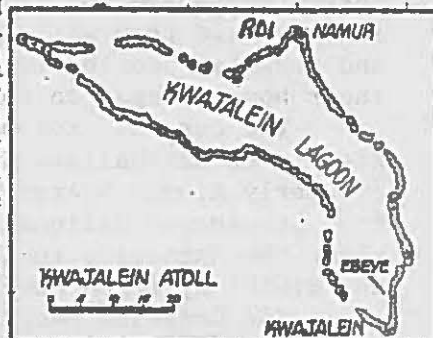
By Saturday, the Roi Namur group grew to more than 60 people and had established two camps with makeshift housing, but were bringing steel roofing and wood to construct sturdy houses.

A scheduled Roi Namur missile test on Saturday was reportedly cancelled because of the Marshallese occupation. However, Kabua assert 2 missile operations went ahead during June, while mid-corridor landowners were on their islands unprotected. Whether the Army will stop all missile testing until the Marshallese leave is unclear, but the landowners have refused to take cover during missile shots, posing a hazard to the Army.

Roi Namur landowners say they will stay until the Army negotiates a fair lease agreement with them. The U.S. Government recently offered \$1.6 million for past use of

the island, but landowners turned this down stating "we learned that the U.S. was going to pay \$2 million for 60 acres on Majuro. There are 400 acres here, so we ask is thier offer really fair?"

Shortly before the Roi Namur occupation began, dozens of Kwajalein landowners landed on their island.



They entered the island without incident. Spokesmen for the landowner's committee said they will continue to occupy the island until the Trust Territory agrees to renegotiate the 1964 Kwajalein land lease. In 1964 the T.T. government made a lump-sum payment of \$750,000 for 99 years use of Kwajalein island - approximately \$10 an acre per year, and agreed to "improve the economic and social conditions of the Marshallese people, particularly at Ebeye..."

Kwajalein people charge the T.T. government with ignoring its promises in the agreement and breaking the lease. "We can't continue living on an unhealthy island like Ebeye," said leaders of the occupation.

"I have a letter from Fatsy Mink," Kabua said, "which in 1976 stated the Ebeye sewer system needed immediate attention. It's more than three years later and what has been done? Nothing."

The festering Ebeye health and sanitation problems have been brought to a head in the last two months, as the island's generator broke down, the sewer system collapsed and the water has been shut off, at times for more than 12 hours a day.

These problems could be complicated if the Kwajalein command refuses to send the water barge to Ebeye, which provides the island with thousands of needed gallons of fresh water several times a week. Informed sources said the Army was considering this in response to the Kwajalein/Roi Namur occupations.

The occupation ended in August following Pentagon agreement to meet with landowners in September.

92% OF PALAU VOTERS SUPPORT CONSTITUTION

(continued from page 1)

Constitution said the U.N. guarantees "the territory should have the right to determine its internal constitution without outside interference, in accordance with due constitutional processes and the freely expressed wishes of the people."

Nevertheless, the American court system in Micronesia upheld the Palau Legislature's action and the Constitution was cancelled. The Legislature appointed a 9 member committee to re-draft the Constitution and a vote has been scheduled for late October on the "new" Constitution. The re-drafted version would allow U.S. nuclear warships to pass through and transit in Palauan waters and also discards the 200-mile ocean economic zone because of U.S. objections.

But the Citizens' Committee is organizing local support to implement the Constitution and is conducting a large-scale education campaign on the Constitution and hopes to defeat the re-drafted Constitution when it comes up for vote in late October.

In a related development, the current Palau Legislature, predominantly anti-Constitution, is attempting to delay the Sept. 4 elections for a new Legislature. The U.S. High Commissioner vetoed their first bill to stop the elections, but they are appealing it in court. However, the elections went ahead and although it is too early for the results, observers in Palau indicate a substantial victory for pro-Constitution forces.

Interestingly, the multi-billion dollar superport project also figures in the Constitution. A key provision in the Constitution bars the government from using eminent domain powers to condemn land for use by foreign countries. The Palauan superport proponents are, with a few exceptions, also against the Constitution. Informed sources in Palau suggest that anti-Constitution forces are aware that the Constitution provision banning foreign use of private land, if implemented, would end any last hopes for the superport.

But the U.S.'s strong opposition to the Constitution's nuclear ban indicate their plans to bring nuclear warships and aircraft into Palau.

Whether Palauans can implement their Constitution - a document supported by 92% of the people - depends, much like the superport battle, on the degree of international support they receive.

THREE SLIDE SHOWS AVAILABLE FOR RENT OR PURCHASE

Three slide shows on Micronesia are available from MSC. 1) Micronesia presentation, focusing on historical background and colonial history, discusses specific problems that have developed during the American administration: The nuclear tests at Bikini and Enewetak and the resulting contamination of Marshallese; the proposed Palau superport; Ebeye/Kwajalein and the lack of economic development throughout the territory; and the Marianas commonwealth and more. Approx. 140 slides.

2) Palau superport: Will it be built? uses aerial and underwater photos courtesy of Douglas Faulkner; addresses the superport controversy, its international implications, impact on Palau, and efforts in

Palau and internationally to block the superport from being built. It also discusses development issues facing Micronesia. Approx. 125 slides.

3) Nuclear tests in Trust: a study of the U.S. nuclear tests in the Marshalls. Describes the Marshallese way of life before the U.S. administration and the disruption that the nuclear tests caused. Traces the Bikini and Enewetak people as they are relocated from one island to the next; the contamination of hundreds of Marshallese living on Rongelap and Utirik from the 1954 Bikini hydrogen test; documents the severe radiation problems that have followed the peoples' exposure; and concludes with a discussion of the problems surrounding the Bikini and Enewetak resettlement attempts. Approx. 110 slides.

The slide shows can be rented for \$20 - a maximum time schedule of two weeks is attached to this rental. The Micronesia slide show to purchase, costs \$55. The other two cost \$50. Write MSC for details and to arrange showings.

The U.S. government has announced plans to use the island of Palmyra in the Line Island group as an "interim" site for nuclear waste storage. The American owners of Palmyra, located

to the south of Hawaii, have publicly stated their opposition to N-waste on their island. The government could use eminent domain powers to take the land for storage purposes.

Please send me:

- ☐ "500 Mile Island", the Philippine Nuclear Reactor Deal, Pacific Research...\$1.50
- ☐ Marshall Is. Chronology, 1948 - 1978, 12 pages with maps, photos....\$1.
- ☐ Ebeye, Marshall Is: A Public Health Hazard, by Dr. Greg Dever, 28 pages, maps, photos, information on health, social and living conditions at Ebeye... \$2.
- ☐ Micronesia Fact Sheet, with map....free
- ☐ Superport Fact Sheet, with maps....free
- ☐ A Strategic Trust: the Politics of Underdevelopment in Micronesia, G. Johnson from Oceans magazine, 1978....25¢
- ☐ I want to contribute to the work of MSC. I enclose\$ _____

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return to MSC, 1212 University Ave., Honolulu, Hawaii 96826

RESTRICTED GAO REPORT SAYS ENEWETAK IS STILL "HOT"

PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY -- AUGUST, 1979

Plea for independent check on radiation

Giff Johnson, in an up-dater, filed from Majuro, reports on a document which, it seems, the US Government would have preferred to have kept under wraps.

The US Government at first suppressed a Government Accounting Office (GAO) report of May 8 which said it was not 'in the best interests of the US Government to inform people living on Enewetak Atoll in the Marshall Islands that they may be exposed to excessive doses of radiation.'

Enewetak, site of 43 atomic and hydrogen bomb tests from 1948 to 1958, is now undergoing a \$100-million nuclear clean-up by the Department of Energy (DOE) to make the islands safe for habitation by the Enewetak people who have lived in exile since 1947.

But, the GAO says, there is no guarantee that the islands will be safe for habitation at the completion of the radiation clean-up late this year. The GAO report indicates the uncertainty surrounding the unprecedented project among the government agencies involved. In spite of this uncertainty, 'the government has consistently told us that the islands are safe,' said Ismael John, a member of the Marshalls' legislature from Enewetak.

The GAO attempted to prevent public release of the 'sen-

sitive' report because negotiations are in progress between the US and the Marshall Islands Political Status Commission to end the United Nations trusteeship agreement which governs the islands.

'The issue of post-trusteeship liability and claims are a part of the status negotiations,' said the report, adding that for this reason 'release of this report... would not be in the best interest of the government'.

The government eventually released the GAO report under pressure in late May, following an anonymous phone call to representatives of the Marshalls Status Commission informing them of the study.

When the clean-up started in early 1977, the DOE said 'it could not assure that the radiation doses would not significantly exceed the proposed Environmental Protection Agency guidelines' for population safety. From the outset, the Defense Nuclear Agency (DNA) — in charge of the clean-up operations — said it was impossible to reduce the contamination to pre-test levels, but added that the southern islands are 'relatively free' of contamination and are

safe for habitation. Enewetak's northern islands are still dangerously radioactive but, following the clean-up, only one island, Runit — where plutonium-contaminated earth from other islands is to be dumped in an atomic bomb crater and capped with cement — will be off limits. In addition, living and food gathering restrictions will be placed on many islands.

But even if the Enewetak people 'adhere to living pattern restrictions,' states the GAO report, 'they could receive radiation doses in excess of current standards'.

Tony Debrum, spokesman for the Marshalls Status Commission, said even the living restrictions placed on the islands were unrealistic. 'Islands on either side and within five kilometres of Runit — which must be quarantined for at least 24 000 years — are designated for "picnics and food gathering",' Mr Debrum said.

The GAO questioned the safety of entombing the plutonium-saturated debris in cement in a bomb crater.

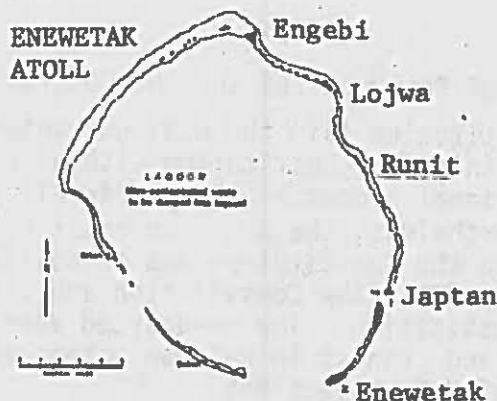
The high levels of radioactivity on the northern islands and the problems that developed at Bikini Atoll during a similar clean-up, have delayed, since 1974, the planting of coconut trees at Enewetak.

In 1969 the Atomic Energy Commission declared that there was 'virtually no radiation left' on Bikini. Then in

1978, after 130 people returned, medical tests showed the Bikinians' body levels of radiation were, in some cases, more than twice the maximum considered a safe level in the US. So they were re-evacuated. The GAO is concerned that the same problems could occur at Enewetak and strongly criticised the DNA and the Interior Department for their opposition to any independent scientific assessment of radiation levels at Enewetak. 'This situation could raise questions on the objectivity of the project,' the report suggested.

The GAO report found that the 'radiological assessments are being made by employees of DOE and the Department of Defense or contractors working for these agencies'. The GAO's concern centred on recent exposure of an Atomic Energy Commission/DOE cover-up of the dangers of radiation from nuclear tests in the 1950s and the unsatisfactory AEC handling of the Bikini nuclear clean-up, informed sources said.

The report concluded that independent scientists should perform an assessment of the 'post-clean-up hazards' before resettlement of the Enewetak people begins. The report failed to mention that 55 Enewetak people are now living on one of the islands and that many others have lived there since part of the population was allowed to return in early 1977.



FAICHUK SEPARATISTS ON THE MOVE AGAIN

On August 2nd, Ambassador Peter R. Rosenblatt was greeted by a crowd of several hundred placard wavers as he descended from the AirMik flight in Moen. According to witnesses, the placards were asking for his help in separating the islands of the Faichuk area of Truk Lagoon from the balance of the State and negotiating a closer relationship to the United States outside of the framework of the Federated States of Micronesia.

The demonstration was the culmination of preparations which began in June when the leadership of various sectors of Faichuk got together and organized a Faichuk Status Commission headed by former District Administrator Mitaro Danis as chairman and Director of Education Chutomu

Nimwes as vice-chairman.

During the Ambassador's visit to Truk, he was informed about the desires of the 'Faichukese' to separate and seek closer ties to the US. In his interview with MNS, Chairman Danis indicated that the people were not in complete agreement with the directions that the FSM negotiations for Free Association were taking.

During his official visit, President Nakayama had several meetings with leaders of the Faichuk separation movement in which he was assured that the desire is not to leave the FSM but to become a separate state of the FSM for economic reasons.

ESG Notes, August, 1979 (Saipan)

500 Mile Island: the Philippine Nuclear Reactor Deal, published by Pacific Research Magazine, takes an in-depth look at the Westinghouse plans for a N-power plant in the Philippines. The entire issue focuses on American government support of the plans; the Philippine peoples' struggle to stop it; Australian uranium and its connection to the N-plant; and ties in the N-waste dumping plans for the Pacific. Available for \$1.50. See coupon (below).